

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 01875 311516 Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 OMB-01 L-03 RSR-01

/105 W

----- 088380

R 311147 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3275

INFO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EGEN, TZ

SUBJECT: TANZANIA THROWS PRICE CONTROL NET WIDER

1. TANGOV HAS ANNOUNCED RETAIL PRICES ON OVER 1000 ARTICLES ARE TO BE CONTROLLED. IN GENERAL, ITEMS WHICH ONLY STATE TRADING CORPORATION (STC) CAN IMPORT ARE CONTROLLED IN PRICE THROUGHOUT TANZANIA; OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS SPIRITS, BLANKETS AND LOCALLY PRODUCED MATERIAL ARE CONTROLLED IN URBAN AREAS ONLY; AND PRICES ON A VERY FEW ARTICLES ARE CONTROLLED IN DAR ES SALAAM ONLY.

2. HEAVY FINES ESTABLISHED FOR INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES WHICH MAY SEEK TO CONTRAVENE CONTROLS. PRICE CONTROL LIST IS BEING WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AND PUBLIC EXHORTED TO TURN IN VIOLATORS.

3. COMMENT: NO REASON TO SUPPOSE CONTROLS WILL WORK ANY BETTER HERE THAN THEY HAVE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. TANZANIA HAS LONG HAD PRICE CONTROLS ON BASIC FOODSTUFFS AND SOME FABRICS AND RESULT HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD SHORTAGES THESE ITEMS AND A FLOURISHING BLACKMARKET, PARTICULARLY IN TEXTILES. WE
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ASSUME RESULT THIS EDICT WILL BE FURTHER SPREAD OF BOTH
THESE PHENOMENA.
PROFIT MARGIN ALLOWED ON MANY OF BETTER QUALITY FABRICS IS OFTEN
ONLY ABOUT 10 PERCENT WHICH LIKELY FORCE NUMBER OF RETAILERS INTO
OTHER LINES. RETAIL PRICE CERTAIN BUILDING MATERIALS SET
BELOW WHOLESALE PRICE CURRENTLY CHARGED BY STC BUT WHETHER
THIS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT FORCE STC CUT ITS PRICES BACK OR
MISTAKE ON PART OF THOSE WHO SET NEW PRICES DIFFICULT TO
SAY AT THIS JUNCTURE. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
CARTER

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KAMPALA
LUSAKA
NAIROBI
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